



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

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EPA
SUPERFUND BRANCH

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Bert Garcia
Chief, Superfund Remedial Section
EPA, Region 8 (Mail Code 8EPR-SR)
999-18th Street, Suite 300
Denver, CO 80202-2466

Dear Bert:

I wanted you to know that it was an honor and privilege to have the chance to get to know and work with Jim Christiansen and Wendy Thomi. They are top notch professionals in the highest sense.

Jim and Wendy keenly understand and know how to build, organize, and positively motivate the crew they have cleaning up Libby. They lead by example and are always attentive to the needs of the crew and community. On the surface this may sound easy but for all the progress the crew has achieved despite a lack of wide local appreciation and having to make personal sacrifices, it takes a very special type of leadership to keep the crew upbeat and pushing hard.

What impressed me most about Jim and Wendy is their careful attention to not only getting the clean up into high gear but also addressing the emotional needs of the community and crew. They know the value of a positive working environment and how to create it. This is the special leadership I was referring to, and it was apparent to me that Jim and Wendy work very hard to make it all look so easy. To their credit and your's, I believe Jim and Wendy are securing the support of the community and maintaining the high commitment of their crew. I have the upmost confidence in them, and I believe that the residents of Libby couldn't ask for a more committed and well meaning group of folks working to make their town safer.

Sincerely,

Captain Alvin Chun, USPHS
Senior Environmental Health Policy Advisor

cc: Max Dodson
John Wardell